



**MONTANA
WOOL
GROWERS
ASSOCIATION**

**P.O. Box 1693
Helena, Montana 59624
Phone: (406) 442-1330
FAX: (406) 449-8606
UPS Delivery: 7 Edwards Street**

Mr. Kenneth R. Payne, Chief Marketing Programs

Livestock and Seed Program — AMS

USDA

Room 2638-S, Stop 0251

1400 Independence Avenue, S.W

Washington, D.C. 20250-0251

Re: Docket number LS-04-06, October 15, 2004; Federal Register — page 61159,

““Lamb Promotion and Research Program: Procedures for the Conduct of a Referendum””

Dear Mr. Payne:

The Montana Wool Growers Association is pleased to comment in support of the proposed procedures to conduct a referendum on continuation of the American Lamb program. MWGA has 1,100 dues paying members, all producers in Montana. MWGA is a member of the American Sheep Industry Association and we concur with their filed comments.

The proposed procedures clearly provide adequate opportunity for the nation's producers, feeders and first handlers to participate in the referendum. Procedures outline accurate definitions for eligibility to vote and rules for the production vote, as well as the individual vote that are required for this referendum.

The American Lamb Board has been promoting American lamb and has implemented a number of critical programs funded by all three sectors of our lamb industry, producers through first handlers. We think this will aide our efforts to get more American Lamb in the market place, and we can then compete with importers. MWGA knows one thing for certain, and that is, if you don't promote your own product no one else will.

We urge final publication of the referendum procedures and announcement of the referendum dates before year-end to allow our association and the American Sheep Industry Association to publicize the fact a vote will take place..

Sincerely,

Bob Gilbert

Secretary-Treasurer MWGA

Rec'd 11/10/04